

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ZACHARIA CHIAIA,
Plaintiff,
v.
R. METCALFE, et al.,
Defendants.
No. C 09-1142 SBA (pr)
ORDER OF SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Zacharia Chiaia, a prisoner at Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP) in Soledad, filed this pro se civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. He has been granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis.

Venue is proper because the events giving rise to the claim are alleged to have occurred at SVSP, which is located in this judicial district. See 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

In his complaint, Plaintiff names the following Defendants: SVSP Associate Warden R. Grounds; Correctional Sergeant R. Metcalfe; SVSP Correctional Counselor II A. Williams; SVSP Correctional Captain D. M. Mantel; and SVSP Correctional Lieutenant J. Stevenson. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief and monetary damages.

BACKGROUND

In his complaint, Palmer alleges that he was denied due process in connection with being held in administrative segregation (ad seg) while he was housed at SVSP.

On May 14, 2008, Plaintiff was placed in ad seg "based upon uncorroborated confidential information from a single source who was not deemed reliable on the only CDCR 1030 Confidential Information Disclosure Form ever generated in this matter, dated 5/14/08." (Compl. at 3.)

On July 22, 2008, Defendant Metcalfe issued Plaintiff a CDC-115 rule violation report (CDC-115) for threatening to stab a particular inmate "based upon uncorroborated confidential information from a single source who was not deemed reliable." (*Id.* at 3.1.) As a result, Plaintiff's request to be release from ad seg was denied.

1 On August 26, 2008, the CDC-115 was "voided (without any formal hearing on the charge)
2 in the interest of justice because per a confidential memorandum dated August 12, 2008 there was
3 insufficient evidence to support the charge." (*Id.* at 3.3.)

4 On September 25, 2008, after 133 days, Plaintiff was released from ad seg.

DISCUSSION

6 A federal court must engage in a preliminary screening of any case in which a prisoner seeks
7 redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. See 28 U.S.C.
8 §1915A(a). The court must identify any cognizable claims, and dismiss any claims which are
9 frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seek monetary relief
10 from a defendant who is immune from such relief. See 28 U.S.C. §1915A(b)(1),(2).

11 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two elements: (1) that a right
12 secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated and (2) that the violation was
13 committed by a person acting under the color of state law. See West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48
14 (1988).

15 An inmate in California is entitled to due process before being disciplined when the
16 discipline imposed will inevitably affect the duration of his sentence or causes an "atypical and
17 significant hardship on the inmate in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison life." Sandin, 515
18 U.S. at 484, 484, 487 (1995). The process due in such a prison disciplinary proceeding includes
19 written notice, time to prepare for the hearing, a written statement of decision, allowance of
20 witnesses and documentary evidence when not unduly hazardous, and aid to the accused where the
21 inmate is illiterate or the issues are complex. Wolff v. McDonnell, 418 U.S. at 564-7. Due process
22 also requires that there be "some evidence" to support the disciplinary decision. Superintendent v.
23 Hill, 472 U.S. 445 at 454. The Due Process Clause only requires that prisoners be afforded those
24 procedures mandated by Wolff and its progeny; it does not require that a prison comply with its
25 own, more generous procedures. See Walker v. Sumner, 14 F.3d 1415, 1419-20 (9th Cir. 1994).

26 Liberally construed, the allegations of the complaint state a § 1983 claim against Defendants
27 for violating Plaintiff's right to due process.

CONCLUSION

1 For the foregoing reasons,

2 1. Plaintiff has stated cognizable due process claims against Defendants Grounds,
3 Metcalfe, Williams, Mantel and Stevenson. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief and monetary damages.
4
5 2. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of
6 Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver of Service of Summons, a copy of the complaint and
7 all attachments thereto (docket no. 1) and a copy of this Order to: **SVSP Associate Warden R.**
8 **Grounds; Correctional Sergeant R. Metcalfe; SVSP Correctional Counselor II A. Williams;**
9 **SVSP Correctional Captain D. M. Mantel; and SVSP Correctional Lieutenant J. Stevenson.**
10 The Clerk of the Court shall also mail a copy of the complaint and a copy of this Order to the State
11 Attorney General's Office in San Francisco. Additionally, the Clerk shall mail a copy of this Order
12 to Plaintiff.

13 3. Defendants are cautioned that Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires
14 them to cooperate in saving unnecessary costs of service of the summons and complaint. Pursuant
15 to Rule 4, if Defendants, after being notified of this action and asked by the Court, on behalf of
16 Plaintiff, to waive service of the summons, fail to do so, they will be required to bear the cost of
17 such service unless good cause be shown for their failure to sign and return the waiver form. If
18 service is waived, this action will proceed as if Defendants had been served on the date that the
19 waiver is filed, except that pursuant to Rule 12(a)(1)(B), Defendants will not be required to serve
20 and file an answer before **sixty (60) days** from the date on which the request for waiver was sent.
21 (This allows a longer time to respond than would be required if formal service of summons is
22 necessary.) Defendants are asked to read the statement set forth at the foot of the waiver form that
23 more completely describes the duties of the parties with regard to waiver of service of the summons.
24 If service is waived after the date provided in the Notice but before Defendants have been personally
25 served, the Answer shall be due **sixty (60) days** from the date on which the request for waiver was
26 sent or **twenty (20) days** from the date the waiver form is filed, whichever is later.

27 4. Defendants shall answer the complaint in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
28 Procedure. The following briefing schedule shall govern dispositive motions in this action:

1 a. No later than **ninety (90) days** from the date their answer is due, Defendants
2 shall file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion. The motion shall be
3 supported by adequate factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Federal Rule of
4 Civil Procedure 56. If Defendants are of the opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary
5 judgment, they shall so inform the Court prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due. All
6 papers filed with the Court shall be promptly served on Plaintiff.

7 b. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court
8 and served on Defendants no later than **sixty (60) days** after the date on which Defendants' motion is
9 filed. The Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should be given to pro se plaintiffs facing
10 a summary judgment motion:

11 The defendant has made a motion for summary judgment by which they seek
12 to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the
Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

13 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for summary
14 judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine
15 issue of material fact -- that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact that would
16 affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled
17 to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a party you are suing
18 makes a motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or
19 other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says.
Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to
interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict
the facts shown in the defendant's declarations and documents and show that there is
a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in
opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If
summary judgment is granted [in favor of the defendants], your case will be
dismissed and there will be no trial.

20 See Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc).

21 Plaintiff is advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Celotex Corp.
22 v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (party opposing summary judgment must come forward with
23 evidence showing triable issues of material fact on every essential element of his claim). Plaintiff is
24 cautioned that because he bears the burden of proving his allegations in this case, he must be
25 prepared to produce evidence in support of those allegations when he files his opposition to
26 Defendants' dispositive motion. Such evidence may include sworn declarations from himself and
27 other witnesses to the incident, and copies of documents authenticated by sworn declaration.

1 Plaintiff will not be able to avoid summary judgment simply by repeating the allegations of his
2 complaint.

3 c. If Defendants wish to file a reply brief, they shall do so no later than **thirty**
4 **(30) days** after the date Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

5 d. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due.

6 No hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

7 5. Discovery may be taken in this action in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
8 Procedure. Leave of the Court pursuant to Rule 30(a)(2) is hereby granted to Defendants to depose
9 Plaintiff and any other necessary witnesses confined in prison.

10 6. All communications by Plaintiff with the Court must be served on Defendants, or
11 Defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the document to
12 Defendants or Defendants' counsel.

13 7. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the Court
14 informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's orders in a timely fashion.

15 8. Extensions of time are not favored, though reasonable extensions will be granted.
16 Any motion for an extension of time must be filed no later than **fifteen (15) days** prior to the
17 deadline sought to be extended.

18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

19 DATED: 11/9/10

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21 SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG
22 United States District Judge
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1
2 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
3 FOR THE
4 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

5 ZACHARIA CHIAIA,

6 Plaintiff,

7 v.

8 R. METCALFE et al,

9 Defendant.

Case Number: CV09-01142 SBA

10 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

11 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District
12 Court, Northern District of California.

13 That on November 10, 2010, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said
14 copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said
envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle
located in the Clerk's office.

15
16 Zachariah Chiaia CDC J-39143
17 Salinas Valley State Prison
18 P.O. Box 705
Soledad, CA 93960-0705

19 Dated: November 10, 2010

Richard W. Wiking, Clerk
By: LISA R CLARK, Deputy Clerk